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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities
Expert Meeting on Systems and National Experiences for Protecting
Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices
Geneva, 30 October – 1 November 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Systems and national experiences for protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

4. Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1: Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document.

Item 3: Systems and national experiences for protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

The experts will discuss objectives of systems for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (TK) and possible means of achieving those ends. Such systems could include, for example, strengthening customary/traditional law, using intellectual-property instruments, developing *sui generis* systems, prior informed consent, access and benefit-sharing mechanisms documenting traditional knowledge, as well as measures to encourage TK-based innovations and the development and export of TK-derived products. For each of these issues, the Meeting should draw out lessons learned regarding best practices and pitfalls to be avoided at the national level and explore possible avenues for international cooperation and support.

Presentations by country experts are expected to provide country-specific experiences and views. A proposed guideline to inputs by experts is attached.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/EM.13/2	Systems and ntional experiences for potecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

Item 4: Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

7. The Expert Meeting will adopt its outcome,which will be assessed by member States before being submitted to the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities in February 2001. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting.

SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

Day 1 (30 October 2000)	Day 2 (31 October 2000)	Day 3 (1 November 2000)
(10 a.m.- 1 p.m.) **Plenary** Opening statement Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work **Informals** Item 3: Systems and national experiences for protecting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	*(10 a.m.- 1 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)	*(10 a.m.- 1 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)
(3 p.m.- 6 p.m.) **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)	*(3 p.m.- 6 p.m.)* **Informals (continued)** Item 3: (continued)	*(3 p.m.- 6 p.m.)* **Plenary** (closing) Item 4: Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

Inputs from Experts

Experts nominated by member States are requested to submit brief papers in advance of the meeting to the UNCTAD secretariat. Papers will be made available to other participants at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

To facilitate a structured exchange of national experiences, experts are invited (but not required) to formulate their inputs according to the questions below. Experts may choose to give special attention to one or more topics which are of most relevance to their national experience and from which lessons could be drawn for the benefit of the other participants. Concrete illustrative examples are encouraged.

Possible topics to be addressed

The role of traditional knowledge (TK) in the national economy:

- the importance and scope of TK, particularly biodiversity-related TK, traditional agriculture and traditional medicine
- estimated economic value of TK in these and other areas

Protection of TK:

- existing or envisaged systems for the protection of TK
- objectives of these systems
- the role of customary law in protecting TK and regulating its transfer
- experiences and lessons learned regarding the use of existing intellectual property rights instruments for the protection of TK, including patents, plant variety protection, geographical indications, trademarks, trade secrets, etc.
- *sui generis* legislation for the protection of TK
- involvement of traditional communities, including women, in decision and policy-making in this area
- mechanisms to control access to TK and ensure equitable sharing of the benefits derived therefrom
- conditions to ensure that benefits are shared with the original holders of the TK
- documentation of TK in registries, including
    - benefits sought
    - conditions for access
    - legal protection of information in registries (e.g. in national legislation)
    - dissemination (e.g. to other communities and to patent offices)
- supportive measures adopted or envisaged by user countries or at the multilateral level

Harnessing TK for development and trade:

- contribution of TK to sustainable socio-economic development and poverty alleviation
- recognition and encouragement of TK-based innovations and technologies
- commercialization and export of TK-derived products, including
    - role/involvement of the original TK-holders
    - potential for future commercial expansion
    - risks and obstacles, and how to overcome them
- the role of partnerships, including public-private sector and inter-community
- areas for assistance from donor programmes and international organizations
- role of Governments in promoting transfer of technology, including by providing incentives to the private sector

Experts are kindly requested to submit their papers (hardcopy and electronic format, please) by 16 October to: Sophia Twarog, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD, E.8033, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, Tel. ++ 41-22-907-5082, Fax ++ 41-22-917-0247, e-mail: sophia.twarog@unctad.org